



BUILT FOR ADVENTURE

Safe Driving Tips

Our top tips to ensure you stay safe on your next adventure.

Top Adventure Destinations

See our team's favourite adventure destinations.

Keep the Kids Entertained

Our easy ways to keep the kids entertained whilst on the road.

Wanting S'more

The easiest s'more recipes to make on the road.



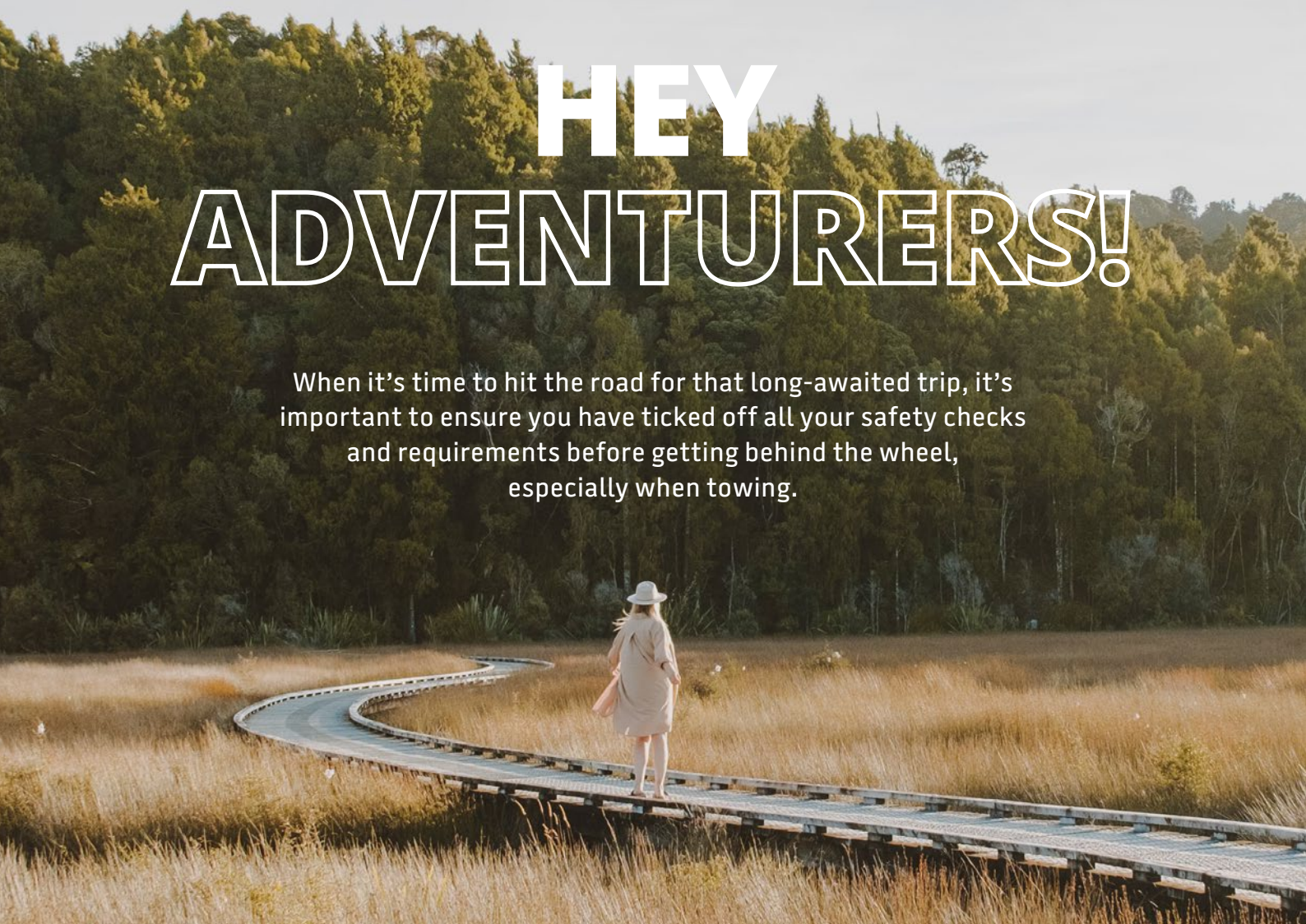
HITTING THE ROAD SAFELY

ISSUE #1
MAY 2023

BUILT FOR ADVENTURE

HEY ADVENTURERS!

When it's time to hit the road for that long-awaited trip, it's important to ensure you have ticked off all your safety checks and requirements before getting behind the wheel, especially when towing.



Your ultimate guide!

Here's our ultimate guide to help you pack, plan and get out on the road safely. Whether you are a first-time caravanner or a seasoned traveller, these tips and tricks will help you make the most of your next adventure. Enjoy!

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FINDING PLACES TO STAY

With so many places to travel to and things to see, finding the perfect spot to park your caravan for a few nights while enjoying the views can be a daunting task. Luckily, there are now a multitude of apps and sources of inspiration available to help you plan your trip and find the perfect place to stay.

From remote bush camping to beachside retreats here are our favourite apps and sources of inspiration to ensure your Australian caravan adventure is one to remember.



Get the most out of these apps

From remote bush camping to beachside retreats, here are our favourite apps and sources of inspiration to ensure your Australian caravan adventure is one to remember:

Camps Australia Wide

For 20 years, Camps Australia Wide has been dedicated to providing up-to-date and accurate information to help Aussie explorers plan their next adventure. It offers detailed descriptions and ratings for thousands of campsites, as well as information on local attractions, facilities, and services.



Nationwide Support Network

Jayco's support network is the most comprehensive in Australia.

Anycamp

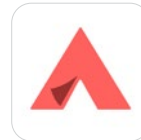
Anycamp allows landowners to list their properties as camping locations and heavily relies on community input to provide accurate information for travellers. From secluded bush campsites to beachfront properties, AnyCamp offers a wide range of options for all types of campers.

Hipcamp

Like Anycamp, Hipcamp allows private landowners to list campsites, glampsites, RV spaces, cabins for users to discover and book based on listing type, location, landscape, activities offered, and amenities.

WikiCamps Australia

Explore thousands of campsites, caravan parks and more. WikiCamps Australia utilises user-generated content and real-time updates ensure that you have the most accurate and up-to-date information at your fingertips. With features like offline maps, weather forecasts, and trip planning tools, WikiCamps makes it easy to discover new destinations, share experiences, and connect with fellow travellers.



Instant inspiration from our team

Bunda Cliffs, Nullarbor, WA

Between the Head of the Bight and the border with Western Australia, the Bunda Cliffs stretch 200kms and overlook the Great Australian Bight. These ancient cliffs are the southern edge of the limestone slab which forms the Nullarbor Plain, and are capped by a hardened layer of windblown sand laid down between 1.6 million and 100,000 years ago!

Ningaloo Coast, WA

This World Heritage Site includes one of the longest near-shore reefs in the world and features an extensive karst system and network of underground caves and water courses. It is home to many marine species, including a wealth of sea turtles, and is the location of annual gatherings of whale sharks.

William Bay National Park, WA

From its windswept headlands, large granite outcrops, sheltered bays and beaches, William Bay National Park is the home of the stunning Elephant Rocks, Greens Pool and Madfish Bay and offers an adventure for everyone!

Rawnsley Park Station, Flinders Ranges, SA

Overlooking the southern side of Wilpena Pound, Rawnsley Park Station is the perfect base for campers about to begin exploring the Flinders Ranges. It's around five hours drive on sealed roads, and has been operating as a tourist and sheep shearing station since 1968 when the first cabin was erected.

Araluen Cascades, Finch Hatto Gorge, Mackay, QLD

From the Finch Hatton Gorge picnic area, trek 1.6km to the beautiful Araluen Cascades (or Araluen Falls!). This is a wonderful spot to cool off for a dip and enjoy the stunning scenery of the area.

The Aquarium, Yallingup, WA

In between Smiths Beach and Canal Rocks amongst the pristine Yallingup coastline, the small lagoon called the Aquarium waits to be explored. While Smiths Beach is famous for its surf breaks, the waters of the Aquarium are calm and peaceful, making them ideal for snorkelling or just floating the day away. The myriad of rock pools also give you the chance to look for crabs and critters on the rocks, and the sights are sure to take your breath away.

Pender Bay, Dampier Penninusla, WA

This National Heritage listed coastal wilderness is an idyllic sanctuary for wildlife such as whales! It offers visitors plenty to do, with snorkelling, swimming, fishing, whale watching, and exploring the caves in the area, before enjoying magical sunsets each evening.

Fraser Island, QLD

Located just off the Sunshine Coast, Fraser Island is the only place in the world where tall rainforests grow on sand dunes. It's been listed as a World Heritage Site and is the largest sand island in the world. Wade in Eli Creek, where the water has been filtered by the sand for 100 years, explore the ruins of Maheno Shipwreck, and whale watch at Indian Head.

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GETTING READY TO GO

You're going to want to make sure you've got everything you need before you set off on your next adventure.

It's good to be prepared in case you decide to go off-grid or you find yourself extending your stay in one destination, the last thing you want is to realise you've forgotten something when the next town could be hours away.



The final weigh in

One of the most important safety checks pre-road trip is ensuring your caravan has an even weight distribution, so you can tow safely and reduce the risk of possible swaying. Both your caravan and tow vehicle should be level.

If one or both are not level, possible reasons might be:

- Incorrect ball height.
- Uneven loading of gear in the caravan.
- Lack of proper towing equipment.
- Incompatibility between the caravan and towing vehicle.

Planning your road trip

Whether you're set to travel for a long time or just a weekend, planning your trip is an important step in the process. But where to begin?

Choose your destination

Decide on where you want to go, taking into account the distance, scenery, and amenities available. Make sure that the campsite you choose is suitable for caravans and has the necessary facilities such as water, electricity, and waste disposal.

Check your caravan

Perform all the necessary safety checks, including the tires, brakes, lights, and gas supply to ensure that everything is working properly.

Map your route

Make sure to take into account any narrow or winding roads that may be difficult for caravans to navigate. Also, plan for rest stops along the way to avoid fatigue and make the journey more comfortable.



Consider Insurance

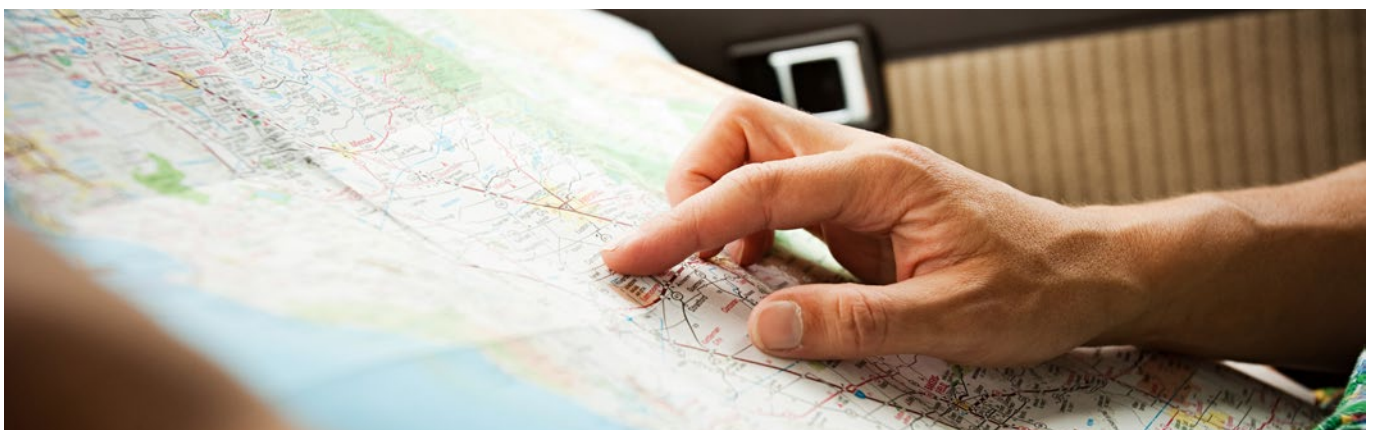
Caravanning can be a risky business, so it's important to make sure that you have insurance. Check your existing policy to see if it covers caravanning, or visit **Jayco Platinum Insurance** to get a free quote today.

Check weather conditions

Keep an eye on the weather forecast before setting off on your trip. Avoid driving in extreme weather conditions such as heavy rain, extreme heat or strong winds.

Make reservations

Finally, make sure to reserve your campsite in advance to avoid disappointment. Many popular campsites can be booked up months in advance, so plan ahead to ensure that you get the spot you want.



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Caravan packing essentials

It's best to make sure you've got all the basics when heading out on your next adventure. This caravan packing list covers all the general caravan set-up and maintenance you'll need on any camping trip:

Van maintenance

- ☐ Wheel chocks
- ☐ Pads for drop jacks
- ☐ Always check your gas, water and battery levels, and bring extra for longer trips

General packing

- ☐ Tool kit with hammer, cable ties, tape, screwdrivers, WD40 and shifting spanner
- ☐ Power leads and extension cords

Safety

- ☐ Straps for awning
- ☐ Spare tyres for van and vehicle
- ☐ Tyre pressure kit and portable 12-volt inflation unit
- ☐ Coupling lock



We suggest you include these items for your next adventure

- Additional portable solar panels
- Generator
- A Weber or portable BBQ
- Doorstep – when clearance is too high
- Solar awning lights
- Portable step
- A good, durable camping table
- Camping chairs
- Portable fridge
- Spare wheel bag/large bag for rubbish
- Clothesline
- Portable speakers
- Tarp
- Camping torch
- Pre-charged mobile phone power packs
- First Aid Kit
- Handheld GPS system
- Spare batteries (for torches etc)
- Additional tanks of water
- Jerry cans





10 THINGS TO CHECK

If you're about to embark on your next caravan trip or your first trip, here are 10 things to check before you load up and hit the road:

☐

Make sure your vehicle is suitable for towing a caravan. Check the manufacturer's guidelines for towing capacity and ensure your vehicle is up-to-date with its servicing

☐

Test your brakes so you know they're functioning properly and the brake pads and discs are in good condition, especially with the added weight of a caravan

☐

Inspect the tyres on your towing vehicle and caravan, so you can feel confident they have adequate tread depth, are correctly inflated and have no damage or punctures. Remember to check your spares as well

☐

Don't forget to look over the hitch of your caravan and make sure it is in good condition, clean and well-lubricated

☐

Lights and electricals should all be tested before you leave. If you notice any issues, double check the batteries of both your towing vehicle and your caravan so you're not caught in a tight spot on the road

☐

Is your gas bottle full and properly secured? Have you checked the gas system to ensure it is in good condition and all the connections are secure?

☐

It would be an impossible trip without water, so make sure your tanks are full and the pump works correctly.

☐

Make sure your kitchen is all stocked up and your appliances are in good working condition.

☐

Going to be doing some off-roading? Ensure your caravan has off-grid capabilities, as well as your towing vehicle.

☐

Give your emergency kit a once-over to ensure it's stocked with a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, spare bedding and anything else you'll need in a pinch.

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STOP AND REVIVE

Caravanning is meant to be a fun-filled adventure, but never at the cost of your own safety. That means making sure you are taking regular driving breaks to rest your body and mind, so you're fresh for the drive.





Plan your breaks in advance

Before you hit the road, plan where you will or want to take your breaks. This includes rest areas, parks, destinations, shopping centres or anywhere else with a place to park and stretch your legs.

Take regular breaks

It's not about the destination, it's about the journey, and taking regular breaks every 2-4 hours is a part of that journey. Not only does this give you a mental break from the concentration of driving, but it's a great opportunity to get the family out and release any tension from being pent up in the car.

Stay hydrated

Drinking water is a super important part of your trip, and even though you're on holiday, you should still try and get your 2-3 litres per day in. Yes, it may cause a few more rest stops, but dehydration can lead to fatigue, headaches and other health problems you don't want to have while behind the wheel.

Get some exercise

When you've safely pulled over and exited your vehicle, make good use of the time. Go for a walk, do some quick static lunges and breathe in the fresh air. The quick bout of exercise should release any tension in your muscles and get your blood pumping, helping the oxygen to travel more quickly to your brain and through your tired body parts.

Healthy snacks

As much as we love something sugary or salty, bingeing on a long drive can make you feel sluggish and bloated. Try instead fruit, nuts, and whole grain crackers that are sure to be filling without overwhelming your body.

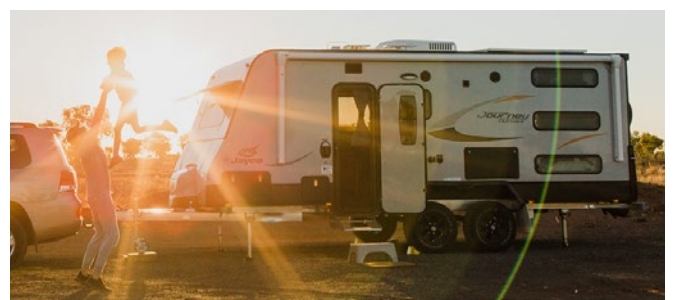
Check your van

A quick rest stop is the perfect time to check how your caravan and towing car are doing on the long drive. Make sure to inspect your tires, and look out for any signs of wear and tear that may need urgent repair.

Stay safe

Last but not least, always make smart decisions by staying aware of your surroundings. Lock your vehicle and caravan, and avoid leaving valuables like smart devices, wallets and other valuables inside.

Remember, holiday travelling means more cars on the road and more people around, so take extra care wherever you are.



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SAFE DRIVING TIPS

Just like your regular safety check or a packing list, there are things you can do to ensure you stay safe on your trip. Here are our top tips.



Take it slow

Always drive at a comfortable and safe speed while on your adventure to accommodate for the added weight and handling of the caravan or motorhome.

Be aware of your caravan's weight and height

Your caravan or motorhomes will be heavier and potentially larger than any regular car, which is why it's important to be aware of its specs at all times. This can help you handle the vehicle in extreme weather, ensure you can park and pull out of stop zones safely and keep you from damaging your - or a fellow travellers - car.

Check the water

Always do a weather check the morning before you set out. Though you might be travelling somewhere predominantly warm, nature does have a mind of its own and extreme wind or rain can come on suddenly. If you are feeling unsure or uncertain driving in these conditions, stay put or find somewhere safe to pull over and hunker down until the weather passes.

Use your towing mirrors

Towing mirrors are specially designed mirrors that attach to the side mirrors of your vehicle and extend outward to provide a wider field of view behind the caravan. Not only do they provide improved visibility to help you avoid accidents, especially when changing lanes, merging with traffic, or reversing, but they are also a legal requirement if the caravan extends beyond the width of the towing vehicle.

Avoid sudden braking or steering movements

With the heavier weight, caravans and motorhomes require longer stopping times and wider turning circles, where sudden movements can cause swaying and jackknifing, seriously impacting the stability of the vehicle and your control. Sudden braking can also cause excessive wear on the tires of both the towing vehicle and the caravan, which can lead to decreased performance and safety of the tires, increasing the risk of a tyre blowout or other tyre-related problems.



Be careful when overtaking or being overtaken

Even if you're a caravan expert, it is important you take care when overtaking or being overtaken and stay aware of the increased risks and challenges posed by the size, limited visibility, and reduced manoeuvrability of the caravan. To minimise the risks, always signal your intentions, maintain a safe distance from other vehicles, and be prepared for unexpected situations.

Handbrake and chocks

Always engage the handbrake or use chocks when your caravan is stopped to prevent rolling and stabilise your vehicle.

Keep caravan well ventilated

Keeping your caravan well-ventilated is essential for a safe and comfortable trip, preventing condensation, removing odours, reducing heat, and ensuring safety from propane and other fuels. Make sure to open windows and vents regularly, especially during cooking, cleaning, and using the bathroom, and consider using a dehumidifier to control moisture levels inside the caravan.

Have your passenger direct, rather than relying on smart devices

This is a far safer and more reliable option than relying solely on smart devices. Your passenger can provide you with real-time information, use their human intuition to assess the road conditions, help prevent navigation errors, and provide additional support and guidance for safe and stress-free driving.

Gain momentum when going up hills

When it comes to driving up hills, the weight of the caravan will require you to gain momentum in order to reach the top without putting unnecessary strain on your vehicle - and saving you the worry of not making it!



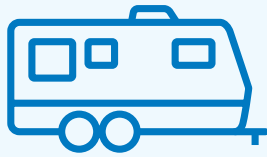
Jayco Platinum Insurance
Comprehensive options
to give you peace of mind

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ROAD TRIP BINGO

Bingo doesn't have to be a sit-down, one hour game played at a table. Instead, try road trip bingo, a game you can stretch out for the duration of your trip. Here are some great things to look out for while on the road:





State signs

If you're travelling interstate, keep a lookout for goodbye or welcome state signs.

Fellow caravanners

You're guaranteed to see some like-minded adventurers while you're driving, so add them to the list.

The same van

Other caravanners may be common to see, but what about the same model of your caravan or motorhome?

Same car and colour

As with your caravan, how likely are you to see someone with the same car and colour as you?

Native Aussie animals

While you're heading through the bush, keep a lookout for some Aussie locals: kangaroos, emus, koalas and more. You can even get specific and only add the animal from the state you're travelling through.

Kookaburra call

Listen closely for the cackle-like call of the Kookaburra.

Radio repeat

If you're a fan of listening to the radio, pick a song and a number. If you hear that song play the same amount of times as your chosen number while on the trip, mark it off!

Unplanned stops

Happy to see where the road takes you? Then you have to add this category to your bingo sheet!

Rest stops

There are numerous rest stops you'll drive by while on the road, so why not add them to your bingo list?

Roadside produce stalls

Some of the best produce comes from these little stalls on the side of the road, and they make for a fun item on your bingo list to look out for.

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ON THE ROAD RECIPES

Whether you're a seasoned caravan enthusiast or embarking on your first trip, one thing is for sure - cooking and enjoying delicious meals is an essential part of the experience. Here are some fun and easy-to-make recipes that are perfect for your time on the road:



Campfire Skillet Breakfast

Cook some bacon or sausage in a skillet, then stir in scrambled eggs and sliced potatoes until cooked through. Top with cheese and serve hot.

Foil Packet Dinner

Place sliced potatoes, veggies (such as carrots, onions and capsicum), and your choice of chicken or ground beef on a large sheet of foil. Season with salt, pepper and herbs, wrap it tightly with foil and cook over hot coals for 20-30 minutes until tender.

Grilled Sausage Sandwiches

Grill sausages (such as bratwurst or hot dogs) until browned, then serve on a bun with your favourite toppings (such as sauce, onions and cheese).

Campfire Chilli

Cook ground beef in a Dutch oven until browned, then add diced tomatoes, kidney beans and chilli seasoning. Cover and simmer over hot coals for 30-45 minutes.

Grilled Meat and Veggie Kebabs

Skewer chunks of steak, chicken or tofu with veggies (such as zucchini, mushrooms and cherry tomatoes), then brush with olive oil and grill until cooked through.



Sloppy Joes

Brown ground beef in a skillet, then stir in tomato sauce, diced onions, and spices (such as chilli powder and cumin). Serve on buns with a side of chips.

Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Spread butter on bread slices and fill with sliced cheese. Grill both sides over hot coals until golden and melted.

Campfire Quesadillas

Layer tortillas with cheese, sliced chicken and veggies (such as capsicum and onions), then fold over and grill until crispy and melted.

One-Pan Pasta

Combine pasta, water, canned tomatoes and seasoning in a Dutch oven, then simmer over hot coals until cooked through. Top with cheese and serve hot.

Campfire French Toast

Dip slices of bread in beaten eggs, milk and cinnamon, then grill both sides over hot coals until golden and crispy. Serve with syrup and fresh fruit.

Easy s'mores dip

A camping fan-favourite that's the perfect desert whilst sitting under the stars.

Ingredients

- 1 cup of milk chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup of heavy cream
- 1 bag or large marshmallows
- 1 box of Graham crackers

Method

1. Light your campfire, making sure the flames die down to hot coals before cooking.
2. In a cast-iron skillet combine the choc-chips and cream, stirring until the mixture is smooth.
3. Arrange marshmallows on top of the mixture.
4. Cover the skillet with foil, creating a tight seal, and place it on top of the hot coals.
5. Cook for 10-15 minutes until the marshmallows are toasted.
6. Carefully remove the skillet from the coals and serve with graham crackers for dipping.

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BLONDIES BLOG

Industry icons and Jayco Vanbassadors 'The Blonde Nomads', share their tips to ensure you're well prepared to pick up your new caravan on handover day.



Hot handover tips for picking up your new caravan

So the time has come to pick up your shiny new home on wheels and if you are anything like us, the excitement levels are high. You may also be feeling a little nervous if you are new to caravanning and towing, but rest assured, all will go smoothly with a little preparation and know-how.

We've recently picked up our brand new Jayco Starcraft Bushpack, our 2nd Jayco caravan, and our 2nd handover day so we thought we'd share a few hot tips that we've picked up throughout the process!

1. Prepare your vehicle

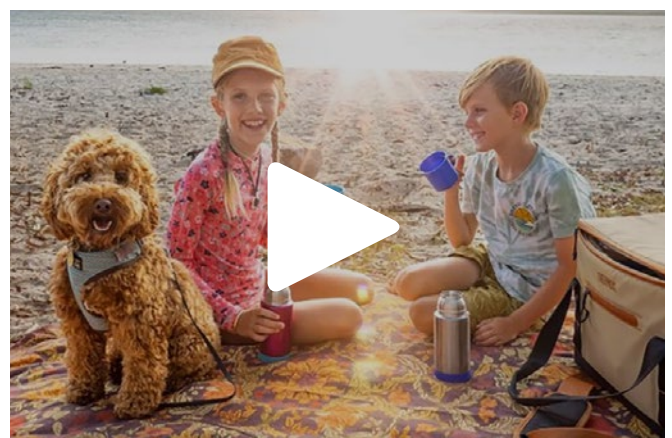
- You will need to ensure your caravan and tow vehicle are within all the towing weight regulations so you can legally and safely tow your caravan home. Electric brakes are required by law for towing most caravans, so your vehicle will need to be fitted with an electric brake controller (on or before your handover day).
- You may want to talk to an expert about a suspension upgrade for your tow vehicle or a weight distribution hitch to ensure you're towing safely and with ease.
- You will also need to check the appropriate trailer connection plug is fitted to your vehicle and that it's actually connected and working.
- Towing mirrors are a must for towing most caravans so you will need to have these with you on the day, you may also want to have a full tank of fuel too as you DO NOT want to have to worry about navigating a petrol station while towing a van just yet!


2. Have a dummy run

On the day of pick up have a 'dummy run' with the dealer. At our first handover day we went for a test drive with a dealership representative who talked us through a 'start to finish' hook up of our van to our adventure truck, as well as how to use and adjust the electric brakes when towing our rig. This gave us an opportunity to get a feel for the van and what it felt like towing it as well as the opportunity to ask any questions along the way.

3. Set up insurance

Just like any vehicle or trailer on the road, you will need to insure your caravan or at least arrange a cover note before you take it anywhere. You may be able to do this in-house at your caravan dealership too. We were able to insure our new Starcraft Bushpack van with the **Jayco Platinum Insurance** team on the day of pickup which was super easy. Make sure you spend some time and do your research and find the policy that is right for you...



 TheBlondeNomads

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KEEPING THE KIDS ENTERTAINED

When you're travelling with kids over long distances, it's good to be prepared with some games to keep them busy and you calm. No one likes to hear "Are we there yet?" a million times, so we've put together some of our favourite games to play to keep them occupied.





Guess the song

Put on their favourite playlist or turn on the radio. Have them guess each song as fast as possible (try in the first 10-15 seconds or less). The first person to name the song gets a point. Give the kids a piece of paper and some coloured markers to keep track – one colour for each player. Whoever has the most points when you reach your next stop wins!

Mad libs

Mad Libs are a fun way to create funny and silly stories. One person asks the others to fill in the blanks with words (such as a noun, verb, or adjective) without knowing the story. Then, they read the completed story out loud. There are no other rules but to have fun and get silly!

I-Spy

You can never go wrong with a classic guessing game of I-Spy, and when you're travelling through the wondrous scenery of the Australian states, there's plenty to keep the game interesting.



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The alphabet game

Players take turns finding objects outside or inside the car that start with each letter of the alphabet, in order. Apple on the counter? That's your starting letter! Next up is B, C, D and so on until someone can't see anything else. Award one point to the last person to name an object correctly.

Licence plate game

You're bound to see a lot of other cars on the road during your travels, and depending how far you go, they won't all be from your home state or the state you're currently in. The aim of the game is to see how many licence plates from different states you can find on your trip. Try for one from each Australian state. Whoever has the most before you reach your destination wins! This is a great way to get the kids looking outside and seeing the sites instead of on their smart devices.

Storytelling

Most kids love telling and listening to stories, and this is a great way to get them to do both. Start a story with a sentence, and then get the others to take turns adding to it. At the end, you should have something crazy and funny. You can make this game a bit more challenging by only allowing each person to say one word.



Last letter, first letter

First Letter: Another great active listening game is Last Letter, First Letter. The first letter of the first word you say has to start with the last letter of the last word the other person just said. To make it harder or easier, categorise each game into food, sport, etc. For example, if you start with the word 'fruit', the next player has to say a word starting with 'T', such as 'tangerine'. Players go in order, and the first player to not think of a word within a certain time limit or say a repeat word is out. Play until you have one winner.

Scavenger hunt

Before you set off, create a list of items the kids have to try and find outside of the caravan while driving. Possible items might be, pink lakes, rainforests, animals, cliffs, dirt roads and more. If they can find them all, they win!

Peace and quiet

If you prefer moments of occasional quiet, make sure to pack lots of activities they can do on their own. Colouring books, board games, reading books, puzzles and crosswords are great brain activities to keep their little minds fired up. For the moments when they just want to chill, load up your smart device with pre-downloaded shows and movies or games.





**What are your favourite caravan tips and hacks during the holidays?
Let us know by tagging us on Instagram or Facebook**



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